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NO. _____

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1983

THOMAS LOGIUDICE,

Petitioner

versus

THE STATE OF GEORGIA,

Respondent

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE COURT OF APPEALS OF GEORGIA

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QUESTION PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

DOES THE "OPEN FIELDS" DOCTRINE OF HESTER V. UNITED STATES, 265 U.S. 57 (1924) JUSTIFY THE WARRANTLESS, TRESPASSORY SEARCH OF FENCED AND POSTED PRIVATE LAND WITHOUT PROBABLE CAUSE OR EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THE OWNER HAS A REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY?

*The caption contains the names of all parties.

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THE STATE OF GEORGIA,

Respondent.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE GEORGIA COURT OF APPEALS

Thomas LoGiudice prays that a Writ of Certiorari issue to review the decision of the Georgia Court of Appeals entered on November 22, 1982.

OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the Georgia Court of Appeals is reported at 164 Ga. App. 709 (1981). The Georgia Supreme Court denied certiorari on January 26, 1983. On rehearing the Georgia Supreme Court reversed that decision and granted the writ. After briefing and oral argument the Georgia Supreme Court vacated its order granting certiorari, LoGiudice v. State, 251 Ga. 711 (1983) with Justice George T. Smith dissenting.
Justice Smith's dissent is reproduced as Appendix A. There is no opinion in support of the Order vacating the grant of certiorari. On December 15, 1983 reconsideration of the order was denied.

JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. §1257 (3)

authorizing the grant of a writ of certiorari from the highest state court. The Georgia Supreme Court vacated the writ of certiorari on November 16, 1983.

A timely Petition for Rehearing was denied December 15, 1983. The mandate was stayed by the Georgia Court of Appeals as the highest state court to reach the merits of issues presented to it

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS INVOLVED

Constitution of the United States, Fourth Amendment:

> The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Constitution of the United States,

Fourteenth Amendment, Section One:

All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

In 1979 Thomas LoGiudice bought a 345 acre tract of land in a rural area of Upson County, Georgia. In 1980 the county sheriff received information that heavy equipment was being operated on the land at night and that a water line had been run into the woods and stopped abruptly with no apparent purpose.

The sheriff, now suspicous that marijuana was being grown on the land entered the property by climbing barbed wire fences and welded fences on the back side of the property. He found no evidence of illegal activity. Later in 1980 the sheriff flew over the land without seeing anything unusual. In fact the only thing he could see from the air was the fence around the property. (V.

II at 78 L 9 & 10). A real estate agent and a land surveyor testified that the land was fenced and posted with "No Trespassing" signs.

The sheriff knew he was trespassing as the following colloquy with the sheriff shows:

Q: Okay and did you cross a fence to get onto Mr. LoGiudice's property? [refers to July 6, 1981 entry]

A: Yes we did.

(V. II at 62)

Q: Did you know you were on Mr. LoGiudice's property when you crossed the fence?

A: Yes, sir, we did.

Q: Did you have permission to be on Mr. LoGiudice's property?

A: Sure didn't.

* * *

The Court: What was your answer Sheriff?

The Witness: That I didn't and I didn't need it. (V. II at 63)

On July 6, 1981 the sheriff and other law enforcement officers again entered the property by climbing fences and following an old logging road. The party eventually reached a small clearing in dense woods where they found marijuana plants growing in chicken wire enclosures. The plants were not visible from any public area. In fact the sheriff testified:

Q: How far away were you when you first saw it? [the marijuana]

A: Within ten feet of it.

Q: Could you see it before you got within ten feet?

A: You could see the wire within

about fifteen or twenty feet. It was real thick. But in order to see the marijuana you had to get within ten feet of the fence . . . .

Q: When you say ten or fifteen feet of the fence, you're talking about the chicken wire fence.

A: Yes.

Q: Around the marijuana tract.

A: Uh huh.

Q: Not the barb wire fence on the property line?

A: No.

(V. II at 66-67)

The sheriff's party staked out the area for four to six hours and then left without making any arrests. The party returned the next day and staked out the area again. Harms and Karlovich were

arrested[1] and then a search warrant was obtained based on what had been noted and seized in the earlier entries.

LoGiudice was arrested later and also charged with possession of the same marijuana. A motion to suppress was denied by the trial court. He was convicted in a bench trial and sentenced to five years imprisonment followed by five years on probation. The Georgia Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court, relying specifically on the "open fields" doctrine of Hester v. United

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1. Harms and Karlovich were tried separately from LoGuidice. See Karlovich v. State, 165 Ga. App. 761 (1983). They are also petitioning this Court for relief.

States, 265 U.S. 57 (1923). LoGiudice v.. State, 164 Ga. App. 709 (1982).

In granting certiorari the Supreme Court of Georgia specified two questions as being of interest:

1. Do the facts in this case support a finding that the seized marijuana was located in an area where applicant had a "reasonable expectation of privacy"? See U.S v. Katz, 389 U.S. 347 (1967).

2. If the answer to question #1 is yes, did the decision in U.S. v. Katz, 389 U.S. 347 (1967) modify the holding of Hester v. U.S., 265 U.S. 57 (1924), to require a search warrant for the search of a secluded field when a reasonable expectation of privacy can be shown to exist in that field? See Oliver v. U.S., 51

USLW 3545 (1983).

These questions were never resolved by the Supreme Court of Georgia because the writ of certiorari was vacated without opinion. However there is the dissenting opinion by Justice Smith which does answer these questions. He finds in answer to the first question that:

> Plainly appellant's actions demonstrated a subjective expectation of privacy in his fields. His land was fenced at all borders, clearly posted "no trespassing," and guarded by two locked gates at the main entrance. The two secluded fields located within appellant's property lines were surrounded by thick forests and undergrowth. Neither field was visible from public roads, neighboring property, or the air. It is difficult to imagine what other precautions appellant could have taken to protect his property against intruders, short of erecting a ten foot barricade around the land, covering his entire farm with a dome, or posting guards at all borders of his property. Cf. Dow Chemical Co. v. United States, [536 F. Supp. 1344 (E.D. Mich. 1982)]

221 Ga. at 713.

In response to the key question of whether Katz has modified Hester Justice Smith stated, "In light of these authorities, I would hold that a per se application of the 'open fields' doctrine to validate warrantless searches of land beyond the curtilage is unacceptable." 251 Ga. at 717.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

The Court Has Already Decided To Review Other Cases To Determine If There Is An "Open Fields" Exception To The Warrant Requirement.

The "open fields" issue has become so regularly litigated and such conflicting results have been reached that this Court has granted certiorari in two cases where the resolution of that issue was critical to the outcome. United States v. Oliver, 686 F.2d 356 (6th Cir. 1982) (en banc), No. 82-15 and Maine v. Thornton, 453 A.2d 489 (Me. 1982) No. 82-1273. The obvious dilemma is whether the "open fields rule" of Hester v. United States, 265 U.S. 57 (1924) continues to have vitality after the "reasonable expectation of privacy" test applied in Katz v. United States,

389 U.S. 347 (1967).[2] The Georgia Court of Appeals held that there was flatly no Fourth Amendment protection for out-of-doors areas that were not within a curtilage. This is the same position taken by the en banc majority in the Oliver decision. It is contrary to the position taken by the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine in Thornton.

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2. Cases which have questioned the Hester rationale and instead applied a reasonable expectation of privacy analysis are collected by Professor LaFave, Search and Seizure §12.4(a) n.16 (1978). These cases following Hester are in the same treatise at note 17. There is a third category of modern "open fields" cases, those which cite Hester as good law but then make a reasonable expectation of privacy analysis. Justice Douglas' opinion in Air Pollution Variance Board v. Western Alfalfa Corp., 416 U.,S. 861 (1974) is an example of this makeweight citing Hester. In Giddens v. State, 156 Ga. App. 258 (1980); cited by the Court of Appeals in LoGiudice, 164 Ga.App. at 710; is another genuflection to Hester followed up by an examination of the facts which shows the expectation of privacy was unreasonable.

A remarkably dissimilar view of petitioner's rights under the fourth amendment is found in Justice Smith's dissent from the order vacating the grant of certiorari by the Georgia Supreme Court. This scholarly opinion (reproduced as an appendix) engages in the kind of thorough analysis which is necessary to apply the "reasonable expectation of privacy" test to the facts.

Therefore this case is particularly well suited to complement the argued cases pending in this Court. Here there are two absolutely conflicting opinions arising from the same set of facts. The only distinction is whether one applies

an inflexible view of the Fourth Amendment as if it atrophied in 1924 with Hester or one concludes that the reasonable expectation of privacy test is intended to apply to all Fourth Amendment questions.

Another reason that this case is particularly "certworthy" is that LoGiudice's expectation of privacy was in fact so objectively reasonable.

The record shows:

1. The Sheriff trespassed prior to the time of the arrests without observing any illegal conduct.

2. The Sheriff's party had to cross barbed wire fences and welded fences to get onto the land.

3. The marijuana plants were in the deep interior of a 345 acre tract of densely wooded land.

4. No one in the Sheriff's party saw any marijuana plants until they were within ten feet of the plants.

5. The Sheriff knew that he was on LoGuidice's land but took the position that he did not need anyone's permission to be there.

6. The Sheriff had flown over the property twice without observing any illegal activity.

Aside from the characteristics of the farm, the fact that the Sheriff was acting on an unidentified tip and the fact that there were no exigent circumstances (as evidenced by the Sheriff's party entering the land unnoticed and returning the next day to make arrests) cause this case to present a pristeen"open fields" issue. The Sheriff subjectively relied on "open

fields" and nothing short an exception to the fourth amendment would excuse his failure to seek a warrant. Tom LoGiudice had an expectation of privacy which was subjective (i.e. he really intended his conduct to be hidden from the public and law) and his expectation of privacy is one that society is willing to recognize as deserving of protection. Thus LoGiudice meets the two part test of Katz which Justice Harlan in his concurring opinon described as:

> a twofold requirement, first that a person have exhibited an actual (subjective) expectation of privacy and, second, that the expectation be one that society is prepared to recognize as "reasonable" 389 U.S. at 361.

Justice Smith succinctly stated the application of this analysis to Hester in his dissent.

> I merely conclude, as have many courts, that "Hester no longer

> has any independent meaning, but merely indicates that open fields are not areas in which one traditionally might reasonably expect privacy," United States v. Freie, 545 F.2d 1217 (9th Cir. 1976). See LaFave, Search and Seizure §2.4(a) (1978).
>
> Another way of stating the same conclusion is this: For the "open fields" doctrine to apply, the searched area must truly be "open"--that is an area in which no one has exhibited a reasonable expectation of privacy.

251 Ga. at 718

This is also a case in which there is a final judgment after the opportunity for extensive examination and reflection by the state courts. The Georgia Court of Appeals conducted the direct appellate review and squarely relied on Hester. The Georgia Court of Appeals then denied rehearing. The Georgia Supreme Court first denied discretionary review on certiorari with three dissenting votes. On rehearing the Georgia Supreme Court

granted certiorari with three dissenting votes. After briefing and argument the Court vacated the order granting the petition, with Justice Smith dissenting. Thus LoGiudice gives this Court the benefit of seriously considered judicial review below.

This case is similar to Thornton in that the policemen in Thornton also knew that they were on private property. The case is dissimilar in that LoGuidice had more objective manifestations of his expectations of privacy, i.e. more fences, locked gates, and the property was posted. As the Thornton court noted:

> An old stone wall, an old barbed wire fence and No Trespassing signs exist around the perimeter of the defendant's property, including a sign where the woods road enters the defendant's property. It was, however, possible to enter the defendant's property without observing anything except

the stone wall." 453 A.2d 489, 491. Even with this less than perfect expectation of privacy the Thornton court focussed on the officers knowledge that they were on private property. LoGiudice had taken precautions similar to those in U.S. v. Oliver, but had the added indicia of privacy that no illegal activity could be observed from the air. Although aerial surveillance played no part in the Oliver case, the en banc majority in the Sixth Circuit makes an "inevitable discovery" argument that there could be no reasonable expectation of privacy since the marijuana plants could have been seen from the air. 686 F.2d at 369 n.4. LoGiudice's plants were undetectable from every place that the public had a right to be.

This Court also has pending the "open fields" cases of United States v. Dunn, 674 F.2d 1093 No. 82-508 and Florida v. Brady, 406 So.2d 1093 (Fla. 1981) No. 81-1636. This case is similar to Brady in that a large tract of land was involved in both instances. Brady's tract was eighteen hundred acres while LoGuidice's was three hundred forty five. Brady's activity was arguably more public since aircraft were landing on his ranch, rather than just passive cultivation as here.

The Dunn case pending in this Court on the government's certiorari petition involves a ruling that the area searched was within the curtilage of a residence. The marijuana patches here are in close enough proximity to the two trailers on the property to be arguably within a

curtilage, although the Georgia Court of Appeals held that they were not. If the marijuana patches here are not within a bright line of curtilage (assuming there can be such a thing) then their nearness to the trailers at least enhances the reasonableness of LoGuidice's expectation of privacy.

CONCLUSION

Two factors have made the "open fields" doctrine ripe for review by this Court. First, two decisions of this Court, Hester and Katz, are variously described as being in conflict with each other or as reconcilable applications of a consistent Fourth Amendment philosophy. Second, the domestic cultivation of marijuana and federal regulation of industry have led to increased litigation over Fourth Amendment protection of out-of-doors areas. This Court should grant the writ of certiorari because any rule of law formulated from the facts of Oliver and Thornton will be complemented by application to the facts of this case. Here the objective manifestations of an

expectation of privacy show that it was reasonable and the searching officers were admittedly relying on their belief that the fourth amendment had no application to their conduct.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served three copies of this Petition For Writ of Certiorari on the Georgia Attorney General, Hon. Michael J. Bowers, Room 132, State Judicial Building, Atlanta, GA 30324 by properly posted U.S. Mail.

This ___ day of February, 1984.

BRUCE MALOY
Attorney for
Petitioner LoGiudice

APPENDIX

In the Supreme Court of Georgia

Decided:

39491. LOGIUDICE v. THE STATE

PER CURIAM.

After plenary consideration of this matter, it is found not to satisfy the criteria for the grant of certiorari and the writ is therefore vacated.

All the Justices concur; except Smith, J., dissenting.

In the Supreme Court of Georgia

Decided:

39491. LOGIUDICE v. THE STATE

SMITH, Justice.

I dissent from the court's dismissal of the grant of certiorari in this case. We granted certiorari to consider an important Fourth Amendment question: Whether the decision in Katz v. United States, 389 U.S. 347 (88 SC 507, 19 LE 2d

576) (1967), modified the "open fields" doctrine first announced in Hester v. United States, 265 U.S. 57 (44 SC 445, 68 LE 898) (1924), to require a warrant of the search of a secluded field when a reasonable expectation of privacy can be shown to exist in that field. I believe that it did and, accordingly, would reverse.

Appellant Thomas LoGiudice was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute in violation of OCGA §16-13-30. Prior to trial, he filed a motion to suppress which was denied, following a hearing, by the trial court. Appellant was convicted after a bench trial. On appeal, the Court of Appeals affirmed. LoGiudice v. State, 164 Ga. App. 709 (297 SE2d 499) (1982).

In 1979 appellant purchased a 345-acre tract of land bordering on Georgia Highway 74 in Upson County, eight miles east of Thomaston. In the summer of 1980, Upson County Sheriff Merill Greathouse began receiving reports on activity on appellant's land. Bully McDaniel, owner of a package store located on Highway 74 near the property, told the sheriff he had heard heavy earth-moving equipment operating late at night on the land. An unidentified source reported that in the fall of 1980 appellant hired a local contractor to dig a well on the land, directed him to lay water pipe from the well some 300 yards through heavy woods, and then discharged him, explaining that he would complete the job himself.

Based on this information Sheriff Greathouse[1] entered appellant's land sometime in the fall of 1980 to search for illegal marijuana plants. At the hearing on appellant's motion to suppress, the sheriff admitted climbing both barbed wire and welded fences when entering appellant's property on this occasion. He searched the area surrounding appellant's trailer but found no marijuana. Later that fall, Sheriff Greathouse conducted an aerial search of appellant's land. He was again unable to detect any illegal activity, but noticed that appellant was constructing a new fence around his land.

On July 6, 1981, acting on a tip from an unidentified source, the sheriff and several Georgia Bureau of Investigation agents again entered appellant's land without a warrant to search for

marijuana. According to Sheriff Greathouse, the group entered by a back route by crossing a creek, climbing a barbed wire fence, and following an old logging road some 200 yards until they reached a clearing. There they discovered a half-acre field of marijuana. The plants were surrounded by dense chicken-wire fencing material and were visible only from a distance of ten feet or less. A 35-foot path led from the field through dense undergrowth to a travel trailer owned by appellant and occupied by Tammy Harms. The officers conducted a "stake-out" of the field, remaining there for four and one-half to six hours. While there they observed Ms. Harms come onto the field and "fondle" the marijuana plants. No arrests were made at this time. The officers returned to the field on the morning of July 7, 1981 and observed

appellant, Ms. Harms and Stephen Karlovich on the field. A search warrant was obtained,[2] and appellant, Harms and Karlovich were arrested.[3]

Evidence introduced at the suppression hearing showed that the front entrance to Logiudice's land was guarded by two locked, welded iron gates and posted with "no trespassing" signs; that the marijuana field was not visible from adjoining property or any public road, and was located 300 feet from appellant's nearest boundary line; that Sheriff Greathouse, while disclaiming prior knowledge of any "no trespassing" signs, was fully aware that he had climbed a fence or fences and entered appellant's land without his permission.[4]

The Court of Appeals, citing Giddens v. State, 156 Ga. App. 258 (274 SE2d 595) (1980), affirmed the trial court's denial

of appellant's motion to suppress. In so doing, the court relied on the "open fields" doctrine of Hester v. United States, supra. In Hester, federal revenue agents with prior information that Hester was trafficking in illegal moonshine whiskey hid near Hester's residence and observed him come out of the house and hand one Henderson a bottle of moonshine. The agents sounded an alarm. Hester grabbed a gallon jug from a nearby automobile, and he and Henderson fled on foot across a field, with the officers in pursuit. In their haste to escape the two suspects dropped the containers, which broke and were later determined to have contained illegal moonshine. On appeal of the trial court's refusal to suppress the agents' testimony concerning what had transpired in the field, the Supreme Court rejected Hester's Fourth

Amendment claim. In a short opinion, Justice Holmes wrote for a unanimous Court that "the special protection accorded by the Fourth Amendment to the people in their 'persons, houses, papers and effects,' is not extended to the open fields. The distinction between the latter and the house is as old as the common law.[5]

In the sixty years since the decision in Hester, courts have, based on the above language, fashioned as exception to the Fourth Amendment's warrant requirement known as the "open fields" doctrine. Simply stated, that doctrine holds that the Constitution's protection of "persons, houses, papers, and effects" does not extend to activities conducted in any area beyond the curtilage of a home. See United States v. Oliver, 686 F2d 356, 363 (6th Cir. 1982) (Keith, J., dissenting).

The Court of Appeals has consistently applied a per se rule upholding warrantless searches which were conducted in areas outside a dwelling place or its curtilage. See, e.g., Olson v. State, 166 Ga. App. 104 (303 SE2d 309) (1983); Giddens v. State, supra; Quarles v. State, 142 Ga. App. 394 (236 SE2d 139) (1977); Patterson v. State, 133 Ga. App. 742 (213 SE2d 31) (1975).

Based on these authorities, the state argues that a warrantless search of land beyond the curtilage can never violate the Fourth Amendment. This position - which amounts to an assertion that the "open fields" doctrine may be used as carte blanche for warrantless searches of areas outside the curtilage - is simply untenable. Close analysis of the Hester decision and subsequent devel-

opments in Fourth Amendment law demonstrate that the "open fields" doctrine does not apply to this case.

Hester was decided in 1924, prior to application of the Fourth Amendment to the states, Mapp v. Ohio, 367 U.S. 643 (81 SC 1278, 61 LE2d 575) (1961), and before the advent of modern Fourth Amendment theory as exemplified by Katz v. United States, 389 U.S. 347 (88 SC 507, 19 LE2d 576) (1967). The Hester decision also predated the development of the "exigent circumstances" doctrine, see McDonald v. United States, 335 U.S. 451 (69 SC 191, 93 LE 153 (1948), the "hot pursuit" doctrine, see Warden v. Hayden, 387 U.S. 294 (91 SC 1642, 18 LE2d 782) (1967), and the "plain view" doctrine, see Coolidge v. New Hampshire, 403 U.S. 443 (91 SC 2022, 29 LE2d 564) (1971). Were Hester not on the books and if the

same factual situation arose today, no court would need to create a special "open fields" exception to the Fourth Amendment. Today the case would turn on the doctrine of hot pursuit. Hester and his accomplice committed a crime in plain view of police who were legally in place. Based on the hot pursuit and exigent circumstances doctrines, the police could lawfully pursue and arrest the defendants. Any expectation of privacy possessed by Hester had evaporated, since police had probable cause to follow and arrest, either in the open fields or the house, as a crime was committed in plain view and the officers were located in a place they had a legal right to be. See United States v. Santana, 427 U.S. 38 (96 SC 2406, 49 LE2d 300) (1976), Warden v. Hayden, supra. Moreover, the oft-quoted "open fields" language of Hester was

unnecessary to the Court's decision in that case. Central to the Court's analysis was its observation that the moonshine containers had been abandoned by the defendants prior to their inspection by revenue agents, so that the defendants could not complain of a search of the abandoned property. "The defendant's own acts, and those of his associates, disclosed the jug, the jar and the bottle - and there was not seizure in the sense of the law when the officers examined the contents of each after it had been abandoned." 265 U.S. at 58. For these reasons, it is unwise to rely on the outdated Hester decision in support of a sweeping "open fields" exception to the Fourth Amendment.[6]

Cases decided since Hester v. United States provide support for this position. In Katz v. United States, 389 U.S. 347

(88 SC 507, 19 LE2d 576) (1976), the Court retreated from the "constitutionally protected area" analysis of Fourth Amendment issues epitomized by the Hester case and Olmstead v. United States, 277 U.S. 438 (48 SC 564, 72 LE 944) (1928). Instead the Court focused on the individual's reasonable expectation of privacy in a given situation. As the opinion in Katz states: "[T]he correct solution of Fourth Amendment problems is not necessarily promoted by incantation of the phrase 'constitutionally protected area' . . . For the Fourth Amendment protects people, not places. What a person knowingly exposes to the public, even in his own house or office, is not a subject of Fourth Amendment protection. But what he seeks to preserve as private, even in an area accessible to the public, may be constitutionally protected." In his

concurrence in Katz, Justice Harlan formulated a test which has become the accepted standard for determining the applicability of the Fourth Amendment to a particular situation: "[T]here is a twofold requirement, first, that a person have exhibited an actual (subjective) expectation of privacy and, second, that the expectation be one that society is prepared to recognize as 'reasonable.'" 389 U.S. at 361 (Harlan, J., concurring). The court has applied Harlan's test in subsequent decisions. See, e.g., Rakas v. Illinois, 439 U.S. 128 (99 SC 421, 58 LE2d 387) (1978).

Thus in Katz the Supreme Court for the first time recognized that the Fourth Amendment's protection of "persons, houses,papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures . . ." applied first and foremost to persons,

not places. (Emphasis supplied). Since Katz, the Supreme Court has time and time again reaffirmed that it is one's legitimate expectation of privacy, not the particular area searched or seized, which controls. See, e.g., United States v. Salvucci, 448 U.S. 83 (100 SC 2547, 65 LE2d 619) (1980); Rakas v. Illinois, supra.[7] The per se "open fields'" doctrine, which holds that the Fourth Amendment does not extend to areas outside a dwelling place or its curtilage, is not unsupportable, particularly in light of recent Supreme Court cases recognizing numerous areas outside the curtilage where one may legitimately expect his privacy to be protected from government intrusion. See Reid v. Georgia, 448 U.S. 438 (100 SC 2752, 65 LE2d 890) (1980) (airport concourse); Ybarra v. Illinois, 444 U.S. 85 (100 SC 338, 62 LE2d 238)

(1979) (tavern interior); Marshall v. Barlow's Inc., 436 U.S. 307 (98 SC 1816, 56 LE2d 305) (1978) (business premises); United States v. Chadwick, 433 U.S. 1 (97 SC 2476, 53 LE2d 538) (1977) (automobile); Katz v. United States, supra (telephone booth). See also Hayes v. State, 141 Ga. App. 706 (234 SE2d 360) (1977) (apartment of another), Bowers v. State, 151 Ga. App. 46 (258 SE2d 623) (1979).

In the years since Katz, the Supreme Court has not been called upon to address the continuing validity of the Hester decision.[8] The Court has, however, cited Hester in two relatively recent decisions. In Air Pollution Variance Board v. Western Alfalfa Corp., 416 U.S. 861 (94 SC 2114, 40 LE2d 607) (1974), a state health inspector trespassed on the outdoor premises of a business establishment

in order to conduct a pollution test of smoke being emitted from the factory's chimneys. Citing the Hester case, the Court held that the warrantless search was permissible, noting that "the field inspector was on respondent's property but we are not advised that he was on premises from which the public was excluded . . . He has sighted what anyone in the city who was near the plant could see in the sky - plumes of smoke." Id. at 865. I think that the circumstances of Western Alfalfa distinguish it from the present case. There the property in question was easily accessible and open to the public, whereas appellant in this case has taken elaborate precautions to exclude the public from his land. Unlike the inspector in Western Alfalfa, Sheriff Greathouse was not in an area accessible to or visible by the public when he made

his observations. I agree with the court in State v. Thornton, 453 A2d 489 (Me. 1982), that the "open fields" doctrine is inapplicable where the observing officer is in a place where he has no right to be when the incriminating observations are made. See also United States v. Oliver, supra; United States v. Holmes, 521 F2d 859 (5th Cir. 1975). In Harris v. United States, 390 U.S. 234 (83 SC 992, 19 LE2d 1067) (1968), a per curiam opinion, the Court cited Hester in support of the proposition that "objects falling in the plain view of an officer who has a right to be in the position to have that view are subject to seizure and may be introduced in evidence." Thus it can be seen that the post-Katz Court has narrowed the Hester case to apply only to observations made from a place where the observing officer was legitimately stationed.

The recent case of Dow Chemical Co. v. United States, 536 FSupp 1355 (E.D.Mich. 1982) is particularly instructive in resolving the issues presented by this appeal. There the Environmental Protection Agency was conducting an investigation of a 2000-acre Dow manufacturing plan to check for excess pollutant emissions. Following an on-site inspection of the plant, the EPA hired an independent contractor to conduct aerial surveillance and take detailed photographs of the plant without Dow's knowledge. When Dow became aware of the flyover, it sued the EPA, claiming that the agency's warrantless aerial photography of its plant constituted an unreasonable search in violation of the Fourth Amendment. The court agreed, holding that Dow's maintenance of fences, locked gates, and elaborate security

systems around its plant manifested its subjective expectation of privacy in the plant. The court continued: "The Fourth Amendment should not be read to require the citizens or businesses of this nation to take unreasonable measures to protect themselves from surreptitious governmental searches. This court is not prepared to conclude that Dow must build a dome over its entire plant before it can be said to have manifested or exhibited an expectation of privacy." (Emphasis supplied). Id. at 1365. The court concluded that Dow's manifested privacy expectation was one that society was prepared to accept as reasonable, and rejected the EPA's assertion of the "open fields" doctrine as justification for the search. Summary judgment was granted in favor of Dow, and an injunction entered prohibiting the EPA from conducting

further aerial surveillance and photography of the Dow plant. See also Wheeler v. State, SW2d (Tex. Ct. Crim. App., decided 9/29/83).

In light of these authorities, I would hold that a per se application of the "open fields" doctrine to validate warrantless searches of land beyond the curtilage is unacceptable. Accord, Case Comment, United States v. Oliver, 20 Am.Crim.L.Rev. 485 (1983); Note, How Open Are Open Fields?, 14 U.Tol.L.Rev. 133 (1982). This is not to say that a warrantless search of a field will ordinarily violate the Fourth Amendment. On the contrary, the opposite is true, since "an individual ordinarily has no constitutionally protected right to expect privacy in open fields," Casey v. State, 87 Nev. 413 (488 P2d 546) (1971). I merely conclude, as have many courts,

that "Hester no longer has any independent meaning but merely indicates that open fields are not areas in which one traditionally might reasonably expect privacy," United States v. Freie, 545 F2d 1217 (9th Cir. 1976). See LaFave, Search and Seizure §2.4(a) (1978).

Another way of stating the same conclusion is this: For the "open fields" doctrine to apply, the searched area must truly be "open" - that is, an area in which no one has exhibited a reasonable expectation of privacy. See Case Comment, United States v. Oliver, supra, at 493 (1983). Webster's Third New International Dictionary defines "open" as follows: "[S]o arranged or governed as to permit ingress, egress, or passage . . . having no enclosing or confining barrier . . . free from fences, boundaries, or other restrictive margins."

Common sense dictates that a field not meeting this definition is not "open" for purposes of application of a per se "open fields" exception to the Fourth Amendment. By no stretch of the imagination can appellant's land be characterized as "free from fences, boundaries, or other restrictive margins."

Having rejected the per se approach used by the court below, it remains to answer the question posed by the Katz case: Whether, under these facts, appellant possessed a reasonable expectation of privacy in his fields that was violated by Sheriff Greathouse and the GBI. Katz dictates that we decide, first, whether appellant has an actual, subjective expectation of privacy; and second, whether this expectation is one that society is prepared to recognize as reasonable.

Plainly appellant's actions demonstrated a subjective expectation of privacy in his fields. His land was fenced at all borders, clearly posted "no trespassing," and guarded by two locked gates at the main entrance. The two secluded fields located within appellant's property lines were surrounded by thick forests and undergrowth. Neither field was visible from public records, neighboring property, or the air. It is difficult to imagine what other precautions appellant could have taken to protect his property against intruders, short of erecting a ten-foot barricade around the land, covering his entire farm with a dome, or posting guards at all borders of his property. Cf. Dow Chemical Co. v. United States, supra.

The second part of the Katz test asked whether appellant's expectation of privacy is one that society is prepared to recognize as reasonable. In applying this part of the test, courts have generally found reasonable expectations that are "normally shared by people in that setting" and "fall within the limits of what society can accept given its interest in law enforcement," United States v. Oliver, supra, at 372 (Keith, J., dissenting). The practice of erecting a fence or barricade to maintain privacy on land predates the Fourth Amendment and appears to be nearly as old as civilization itself. Nine hundred years ago, a medieval English landowner whose property was overrun by intruders had to at once assemble an army and retake his property by force. If he failed, the land became the lawful

property of the usurper. See Bracton, On the Laws and Customs of England, Vol. II, p. 155 (Thorne ed. 1968). In time, English landowners began to protect their lives and property by building walls around their homes, storage houses and servants' quarters. This was for the purpose of forestalling surprise attacks and to give the defending landowners the advantage when attacked. This protected area, which included the homestead and its immediate surroundings, became known as the "curtilage" at common law. See Bare v. Commonwealth, 122 Va. 783 (94 SE 168) (1917).

In this country, the use of fences and barricades has always played an important part in defining landowners' right to privacy. In the 1800's in the Midwest and West, the open range was used by everyone. Violence erupted when

squatters, farmers and cattle ranchers claimed the same land as their own. By the 1880's, it became a common practice to erect barbed-wire fences at one's claimed property line. See Billington, Westward Expansion, 595-98 (4th Ed. 1974). A landowner's erection of such a fence said, in effect: "This land is mine, I intend to put it to use, and I demand that all respect my ownership and privacy." More recently, enactment of "no fence" laws in this country meant that a landowner no longer had to construct a fence to protect his farmlands and his privacy from another's domestic animals which are left to run free. See 1933 Code of Georgia, §62-501 et seq.; Thombley v. Hightower, 52 Ga. App. 716, 719 (184 SE 331) (1935). The law has evolved through history toward general recognition that an owner of land has a

right to use his land as he pleases, free from trespass or intrusion, without having to build a fort around it as in common law days. Appellant's erection of fences, no trespassing signs, and locked gates around his land, then, should be recognized for what it is -- a reasonable and established method of protecting his privacy in the enclosed land. This is particularly true in agricultural states such as Georgia, where one's land is often his only source of livelihood. LoGuidice's expectation of privacy is one that society in general, and Georgia in particular, recognizes as "reasonable."

One commentator has aptly observed that application of the Katz standard is, at bottom, "a value judgment. It is whether, if the particular form of surveillance practiced by police is permitted to go unregulated by constitutional

restraints, the amount of privacy and freedom remaining to citizens would be diminished to a compass inconsistent with the aims of a free and open society." Amsterdam, Perspectives on the Fourth Amendment, 58 Minn.L.Rev. 349, 403 (1974).

In my view the Fourth Amendment at a minimum means that law enforcement officers may not conduct "fishing expeditions" on private, posted and fenced property, trespassing thereupon at will for a period of several months until they discover "open fields" containing incriminatory evidence. When conducted on fenced property, such activity is clearly inconsistent with the aims of a free and open society, and flies in the face of a reasonable, clearly exhibited expectation of privacy. Amsterdam, supra. Individuals in circumstances similar to

LoGiudice's would, I believe, expect their privacy to be invaded only upon issuance of a valid search warrant. Moreover, this reasonable expectation of privacy would not unduly hamper legitimate law enforcement and investigative activities, such as verifiable tips from reliable informants, or aerial fly-over searches from appropriate heights. See, e.g., Reece v. State. 152 Ga. App. 760 (264 SE2d 258 (1979); People v. Sneed, 32 Cal. App. 3d 535, 108 Cal. Rptr. 146 (1973).

Because in this appeal the state has relied solely on the "open fields" exception in its attempts to validate the warrantless search of appellant's land, I will address other possible justifications for the search only briefly. The state, of course, assumes the burden of proving that an exception to the Fourth

Amendment's general warrant requirement applies. United States v. Jeffers, 342 U.S. 48, 51 (72 SC 93, 96 LE 59) (1951); OCGA § 17-5-30(b). It is interesting to note that Sheriff Greathouse and the GBI agents surreptitiously entered appellant's land on two occasions, making prolonged observations, before seeking a search warrant. This conduct was in itself a tacit admission that the officers lacked the probable cause necessary to secure a search warrant when they first trespassed on appellant's land.[9] Nor is there any evidence of exigent circumstances, such as possible destruction of the marijuana plant, which would excuse the officers' failure to obtain a warrant prior to entering the land. The reports from local citizens concerning heavy equipment operations at night on the land and the laying of water pipe,

coupled with an anonymous, uncorroborated tip of illegal activity on the land, does not amount to probable cause to issue a search warrant. Operation of heavy farm machinery, even at night, is commonplace in today's farming world. The reports concerning appellant's water pipes are likewise not indicative of any criminal activity. In addition, there is no evidence in the record that reliable source ever observed marijuana growing on the land.

It is inconceivable to me that this court would condone the outrageous, illegal investigative activities carried on by law enforcement officials in this case. To sanction this search is to say that law enforcement officers may freely trespass on fenced, posted, secluded rural property without regard for the privacy of persons under the Fourth

Amendment. This view too easily defers to the judgment of officers of the law who are, after all, only human, and are sometimes overzealous in their pursuit of "the often competitive enterprise of ferreting out crime," Johnson v. United States, 333 U.S. 10, 14 (68 SC 367, 92 LE 436) (1948). Such a view also derogates unnecessarily from the importance of the rights and values the Fourth Amendment was designed by the founding fathers to protect--rights just as important as freedom of religion, of speech and the press, the right to a jury trial and to trial counsel, due process, freedom from quartering soldiers in one's home in peacetime, and the other precious liberties safeguarded by the Bill of Rights.[10] As Justice Brandeis pointed out in his famous dissent in Olmstead v. United States, 277 U.S. 438 (48 SC 564, 72 LE

944) (1928), the Fourth Amendment guarantees "the right to be left alone - the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men." Id. at 478.

I would therefore reject the per se "open fields" doctrine employed by the Court of Appeals and sanctioned by this court in this and previous cases. Because the seized evidence was observed by officers who were in a place they had no right to be in violation of appellant's justifiable expectation of privacy, those officers' observations and the seized evidence should have been suppressed. To hold otherwise makes the "open fields" doctrine a carte blanche authorization to law enforcement officers to trample and roam at will over fenced, posted private property outside of the curtilage without a warrant. Where a

landowner has demonstrated to outsiders that he intends to shut them out, some degree of constitutionally protected privacy attaches. The protection against illegal searches and seizures accorded by the Fourth Amendment does not vanish where the curtilage line ends.

In conclusion, I can only echo the sentiments of Justice Brennan: "Although I recognize that the traffic in illicit drugs is a matter of pressing national concern, that cannot excuse this Court from exercising its unflagging duty to strike down official activity that exceeds the confines of the Constitution. In discussing the Fourth Amendment in Coolidge v. New Hampshire, 403 U.S. (1971), Justice Stewart stated: 'In times of unrest, whether caused by crime or racial conflict or fear of internal subversion, this basic law and the values

that it represents may appear unrealistic or "extravagant" to some. But the values were those of the authors of our fundamental constitutional concepts.' Id., at 455 (plurality opinion). We must not allow our zeal for effective law enforcement to blind us to the peril to our free society that lies in this Court's disregard of the protections afforded by the Fourth Amendment." Florida v. Royer, U.S. (103 SC 1819, 75 LE2d 229) (1983) (Brennan, J., concurring specially).

I respectfully dissent.

ENDNOTES

1. Clearly Sheriff Greathouse is a "law enforcement officer" to whom the Fourth Amendment applies. See State v. Young, 234 Ga. 488, 494 (216 SE2d 586) (1975) (Fourth Amendment exclusionary rule applies to "action taken by law enforcement personnel"); OCGA § 15-16-1(a) ("the sheriff is the basic law enforcement officer of the several counties of this state . . .").

2. If Sheriff Greathouse had the right to be on the land in the first place, he needed no search or arrest warrant. Anyone violating the law in his presence would be subject to arrest and search under the "plain view" doctrine.

3. Harms and Karlovich were tried separately from appellant. See Karlovich v. State, 165 Ga. App. 761 (297 SE2d 499) (1983).

4. Apart from its Fourth Amendment implications, this conduct clearly violated the criminal trespass statute, see OCGA § 16-7-21, and constituted a common-law trespass, see OCGA § 51-9-1.

5. This oft-quoted remark is misleading, and it reflects the dearth of analysis in the Hester opinion. There was, of course, no Fourth Amendment at the common law. In fact, the oppressive treatment persons received in England and in the colonies prior to the Revolution was a leading reason the founding fathers adopted the Bill of Rights. See Boyd v. United States, 116 U.S. 616, 623 (6 SC

524, 29 LE 746) (1886); Note: How Open Are The Open Fields?, 14 U.Tol.L.Rev. 133 (1982).

6. Apart from any consideration of the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Fourth Amendment in Hester and subsequent cases, this court is free, under the Georgia Constitution, to provide for greater protection of individual rights than under federal law. See Oregon v. Hass, 420 U.S. 714, 719 (95 SC 1215, 43 LE2d 570) (1975); Brennan, State Constitutions and the Protection of Individual Rights, 90 Harv.L.Rev. 489 (1977). See also Wheeler v. State, SW2d (Tex.Ct.Crim.App., decided 9/29/83).

7. The "open fields" doctrine, as interpreted and employed by most courts, does not place proper emphasis on the "personal privacy" component of the Fourth Amendment recognized in Katz. Instead the doctrine clings to the outmoded "constitutionally protected area" analysis of Olmstead, supra. See United States v. Oliver, 686 F2d 356, 363 (1982) (Keith, J., dissenting).

8. Certiorari has been granted, however, in United States v. Oliver, 686 F2d 356 (1982), 51 USLW 3552. That case is currently pending in the Supreme Court.

9. See n.4, supra. It is important to remember that "probable cause" and "reasonable expectation of privacy," while interrelated, are separate and distinct concepts of law. An officer of the state with probable cause, that is, a reasonable belief that a crime has been or is being committed, Brinegar v. United

States, 338 U.S. 160, 175-76 (69 SC 1302, 93 LE 1879) (1949), may obtain an arrest warrant or a search warrant. Once probable cause has been shown, the individual's expectation of privacy vanishes. The concepts are thus in a sense mutually exclusive ones, and cannot coexist in the same point in time.

10. History shows that the main impetus behind the adoption of the Bill of Rights in 1791 was the protection of individual civil rights from unwarranted governmental intrusion. In Congressional debates on the proposed amendments, James Madison stated: "I believe the great mass of the people who opposed [the Constitution as originally ratified] disliked it because it did not contain effectual provisions against the encroachment on particular rights and those safeguards which they have long been accustomed to have interposed between them and the magistrate who exercises the sovereign power." Annals of Congress, 1st Cong., 1st Sess., p. 450. See also Lasson, The History and Developement of the Fourth Amendment 87 (1937).

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ALEXANDER L. STEVAS,
CLERK

83-1392

NO. _____

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1983

THOMAS LOGIUDICE,

Petitioner

versus

THE STATE OF GEORGIA,

Respondent

SUPPLEMENTAL APPENDIX TO PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE COURT OF APPEALS OF GEORGIA

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February 13, 1984

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November 22, 1982

65263. LoGIUDICE v. THE STATE

Deen, Presiding Judge.

Thomas F. LoGiudice appeals from his conviction of possession of more than an ounce of marijuana with intent to distribute in violation of the Georgia Controlled Substances Act following a trial before a judge.

1. It was not error for the trial court to overrule appellant's motion to suppress. He contends that his fourth amendment rights were violated when the sheriff and GBI agents who were conducting a surveillance of his property for suspected illegal drug activities entered his property on July 6, 1981, through a back way by crossing a creek, climbing over a barbed wire fence, and through dense woods until they were within ten feet of a six and one-half

foot chicken wire fence which enclosed a plot of marijuana. This plot was located approximately thirty-five feet from a travel trailer occupied by one Tammy Harms. The officers observed the field for approximately four to six hours before leaving and observed Ms. Harms fondling the marijuana plants. The next day the officers again entered the land and arrested Ms. Harms, after again observing her in the field and also observed LoGiudice and another man in the field. The sheriff then obtained a search warrant and arrested LoGiudice when it was executed. The officers discovered marijuana growing not only in the half-acre plot near the Kenskill trailer occupied by Harms, but also in an area close to the trailer occupied by LoGiudice and his wife which was located

on a lake approximately 1,700 feet from the plot surrounded by the chicken wire fence. Appellant is apparently relying upon the arrest of Ms. Harms to support his claim that the search was illegal because of an illegal search of the curtilage of the trailer in which she lived. The evidence, however, shows that while appellant owned the trailer he resided in the trailer near the lake approximately 1,700 feet from the large marijuana patch. He also contends that the agents were trespassing on his property as the land was posted and the gates were locked. The sheriff testified that only after his surveillance of the property did he learn that the property was posted and that the gates on the road leading to the property were locked.

The trial court correctly held that

Giddens v. State, 156 Ga. App. 258 (274 SE2d 595) (1980) was controlling. That case relied upon Hester v. United States, 265 U.S. 57 (44 SC 445, 68 LE 898) (1923), wherein it was found that a similar trespass did not constitute a search of the defendant's house, person, papers or effects. Here, the sheriff testified that he did not seize any evidence until the search warrant was executed and had no prior notice that entry onto the property was forbidden. As to appellant's argument that the field adjacent to the Kenskill travel trailer was within the curtilage of a dwelling, he could not have any expectation of privacy in a dwelling in which he does not reside, and it is well established that the Fourth Amendment protects people, now places, against unreasonable

searches and seizures. In Kelley v. State, 146 Ga. App. 179 (245 SE2d 872) (1978), a similar situation arose and this court found tents adjacent to a marijuana field and occupied by the defendants to be dwellings and the adjacent area to be within the curtilage. Even assuming that Ms. Harms was arrested within the curtilage of her residence and that LoGiudice had standing to complain of a search of the curtilage, the evidence indicated that the marijuana plants could be seen from ten feet outside the chicken wire fence. Moreover, it is possible that the marijuana field was not within the curtilage of Ms. Harms' trailer, as a registered land surveyor testified that the land separating her residence from the field was thickly wooded and rough.

In view of all the above-mentioned facts, the trial court, as trier of fact on the motion to suppress, did not err in holding that the motion to suppress was without merit.

2. The trial court did not err in allowing into evidence items seized as a result of the search and certain statements made by appellant subsequent to his arrest. As the trial court found the search to be valid under the warrant, the seized evidence was properly admitted. The court also held a Jackson-Denno hearing and found his statements to have been made voluntarily.

3. The trial court did not abuse its discretion in denying appellant's motion for a continuance of the suppression hearing. Pulliam v. State, 236 Ga. 460 (224 SE2d 8) (1976); Domingo v. State,

211 Ga. 691 (88 SE2d 1) (1955).

4. In his final enumeration of error, the appellant claims that the trial court erred in denying his motion for the return of certain firearms seized when his residence was searched, imposing a forfeiture of the weapons to the Upson County Sheriff's department and crediting the appraised value of the weapons ($6,404) against the amount of the $10,000 fine which was imposed as a part of his sentence. We agree with this contention.

There is no evidence that the gun collection was contraband, as required under Code Ann. §27-3103. (Even if it were contraband, the proper method for disposal of such items is set forth in Code Ann. §§3102 and 3103 and not the procedure followed in the instant case.)

Once it was determined that the guns were not contraband (i.e., because they were not stolen property or used in the commission of a crime), they should have been immediately returned to the defendant or to some party designated by him to receive his property. The court's reasoning that Code Ann. §26-2914 (a) prevented it from returning the weapons to a person who has been convicted of a felony is true insofar as it goes. However, these weapons did not have to be returned to the appellant. As they were his property, he must be free to dispose of them as he sees fit once he can no longer be allowed to possess them under the law. He must choose to either give them away or sell them by appointing someone to act as his agent to dispose of them. As there is no law in Georgia

which specifies that these guns are contraband, they must be surrendered to the appellant's appointed agent. See Balkcom v. Heptinstall, 152 Ga. App. 539 (263 SE2d 275) (1979), wherein it was found that currency seized from a convicted felon who possessed it in violation of prison rules could not be confiscated by prison officials and appropriated to state use. (See Code §77-329.2 for a remedy of the situation in Balkcom.)

Judgment affirmed in part, reversed in part. Sognier and Pope, JJ., concur.

Decided November 22, 1982 ---
Rehearing denied December 7, 1982
Cert. applied for.
Drug violation. Upson Superior Court.
Before Judge Whalen.
Tommy R. Hankinson, Truitt A. Mallory, for appellant.
Johnnie L. Caldwell, Jr., District Attorney, Paschal A. English, Jr., J. David Fowler, Assistant District Attorneys for appellee.

In the Supreme Court of Georgia

November 16, 1983 Decided:

39491. LOGIUDICE v. THE STATE

PER CURIAM.

After plenary consideration of this matter, it is found not to satisfy the criteria for the grant of certiorari and the writ is therefore vacated.

All the Justices concur; except Smith, J., dissenting.

Clerk's Office, Supreme Court of Georgia

ATLANTA DEC 15 1983

The motion for a rehearing was denied today:

Case No. 39491. LeGuidice v. State

Smith, J., dissents

Yours very truly,

MRS. JOLINE B. WILLIAMS, Cler

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

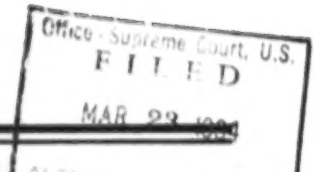
I hereby certify that I have this day served three copies of this Supplemental Appendix To Petition For Writ of Certiorari on the Georgia Attorney General, Hon. Michael J. Bowers, Room 132, State Judicial Building, Atlanta, GA 30324 by properly posted U.S. Mail.

This ___ day of February, 1984.

BRUCE MALOY
Attorney for
Petitioner LoGiudice

83 - 1392

NO. 83-192



IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1983

THOMAS LOGIUDICE,
Petitioner,

v.

STATE OF GEORGIA,
Respondent.

ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE COURT OF APPEALS OF GEORGIA

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION FOR THE RESPONDENT

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QUESTION PRESENTED

1.

Whether the Court of Appeals of Georgia properly concluded that the Petitioner did not have a reasonable expectation of privacy in the area where the marijuana was first discovered.

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NO. 83-192

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1983

THOMAS LOGIUDICE,

Petitioner,

v.

STATE OF GEORGIA,

Respondent.

ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE COURT OF APPEALS OF GEORGIA

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION FOR THE RESPONDENT

PART ONE

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Petitioner, Thomas LoGiudice, was indicted and tried in the Superior

Court of Upson County, Georgia. Petitioner was indicted for the offense of possession of more than one ounce of marijuana with intent to distribute in violation of the Georgia Controlled Substances Act. Prior to trial, a motion to suppress was filed and a hearing was conducted on that motion. After considering the evidence, the trial court denied the motion to suppress. Petitioner was convicted at a bench trial and sentenced to serve five years imprisonment followed by five years on probation.

Petitioner subsequently filed an appeal to the Court of Appeals of Georgia challenging his conviction in the instant case. On appeal, that

court addressed numerous issues, including the denial of the motion to suppress. The appellate court affirmed the trial court's decision as to the motion to suppress. LoGiudice v. State, 164 Ga. App. 709, 297 S.E.2d 499 (1982). The Supreme Court of Georgia denied certiorari on January 26, 1983. On rehearing, the Supreme Court of Georgia reversed that decision and granted the writ. After briefing and oral argument, the Supreme Court of Georgia vacated the order granting certiorari, LoGiudice v. State, 251 Ga. 711, ___S.E.2d___ (1983) with Justice Smith dissenting. The instant petition was then filed in this Court.

STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

In 1979, Petitioner purchased a three hundred and forty-five acre tract of land bordering on Georgia Highway 74 in Upson County, eight miles east of Thomaston, Georgia. In the summer of 1980, Upson County Sheriff Merill Greathouse began receiving reports of activity on the Petitioner's land. The owner of a local package store located on Highway 74 near the property told the Sheriff he had heard heavy earth moving equipment operating at night on the land. Another unidentified source reported that in the fall of 1980, Petitioner had hired a local contractor to dig a well on the land, and had directed the contractor to lay

water pipe from the well some three hundred yards to heavy woods. Petitioner unexplainedly discharged the contractor, saying that he would complete the job himself.

Based on this information, Sheriff Greathouse entered Petitioner's land sometime in the fall of 1980 to search for illegal marijuana plants. At the hearing on Petitioner's motion to suppress, the sheriff admitted to climbing both barbed wire and welded fences when entering Petitioner's property. The sheriff searched the area surrounding Petitioner's trailer but found no marijuana. Later that fall Sheriff Greathouse conducted an aerial search of Petitioner's land. He again was unable to detect any

illegal activity, but noticed that Petitioner was constructing a new fence around his land.

On July 6, 1981, acting on a tip from an unidentified source, the sheriff and several G.B.I. agents entered Petitioner's land without a warrant to search for marijuana. According to Sheriff Greathouse, the group entered by a back route by crossing a creek, climbing a barbed wire fence and following an old logging road some two hundred yards until they reached a clearing. There they discovered a half acre field of marijuana. The plants were surrounded by chicken wire fencing and were plainly visible from a distance of ten feet or less. A thirty-five foot path

led from the field through dense undergrowth to a travel trailer owned by the Petitioner.

The officers conducted a stake-out of the field, remaining four and one-half to six hours. No arrests were made at that time. The officers returned to the field on the morning of July 7, 1981 and observed the Petitioner and two co-defendants in the field. A search warrant was obtained and the Petitioner and the two co-defendants were arrested.

The Court of Appeals of Georgia made certain factual findings in addressing the record. The court concluded the following:

> The officers discovered marijuana growing not

only in the half-acre plot near the Kenskill trailer occupied by Harms [co-defendant], but also in an area close to the trailer occupied by LoGuidice and his wife which was located on the lake approximately 1700 feet from the plot surrounded by the chicken wire fence. [Petitioner] is apparently relying upon the arrest of Ms. Harms to support his claim that the search was illegal because of an illegal search of the

curtilage of the trailer in which she lived. The evidence, however, shows that while [Petitioner] owned the trailer he resided in the trailer near the lake approximately 1700 feet from the large marijuana patch. He also contends that the agents were trespassing on his property as the land was posted and the gates were locked. The sheriff testified that only after surveillance of the property did he learn that the property

was posted and that the gates on the road leading to the property were locked.

Further facts will be developed as necessary for a more thorough examination of the issue which is presented by the instant petition.

PART TWO

REASONS FOR NOT GRANTING THE WRIT

A. THE TRIAL COURT AND THE COURT OF APPEALS OF GEORGIA PROPERLY CONCLUDED THAT, UNDER THE FACTS OF THIS CASE, PETITIONER HAD NO REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY IN THE AREA WHERE THE MARIJUANA WAS DISCOVERED.

Petitioner has urged this Court to grant the instant petition for a writ of certiorari based on the failure of the trial court to suppress certain evidence. The basis for this request by the Petitioner is an assertion that

the decision by this Court in Katz v. United States, 398 U.S. 347 (1967), narrowed the scope of the open fields doctrine set forth in Hester v. United States, 265 U.S. 57 (1924). Petitioner asserts that his intent to exclude the public was manifested by the various fences placed on the property as well as the locked gate and no trespassing signs. Petitioner has asserted that the Court of Appeals of Georgia adopted a per se approach to the open fields doctrine which was incapatable with Katz, supra. Petitioner also cites to four cases presently pending before this Court which he asserts should affect the disposition of the instant case. See Maine v. Thornton, ___ U.S. ___, 103

S.Ct. 1520 (1983); Oliver v. United States, ___ U.S. ___, 103 S.Ct. 812 (1983); United States v. Dunn, 674 F.2d 1093 (5th Cir. 1982), No. 82-508 cert. pending; Florida v. Brady, ___ U.S. ___, 102 S.Ct. 2266 (1982).

Respondent submits that there exists no reason for granting certiorari in the instant case as the Court of Appeals properly applied the open fields doctrine in light of the facts of the instant case. Factual findings made in this case clearly distinguish this case from other cases in that the facts do not show a reasonable expectation of privacy on the part of the Petitioner.

In this Court's opinion in Hester v. United States, 265 U.S. 57 (1923),

the Court noted that, "[a] special protection afforded by the Fourth Amendment to the people and their persons, houses, papers and effects, is not extended to the open fields. The distinction between the latter and the house is as old as the common law." Id. at 59. Subsequently, in this Court's decision in Katz v. United States, 389 U.S. 347 (1967), this Court emphasized that the Fourth Amendment protects people not places. Under Katz there are two requirements that must be met, that is, that a defendant have exhibited an actual subjective expectation of privacy and that the expectation be one that society is prepared to recognize as reasonable. Katz, supra at 362.

In upholding the continued use of the open fields doctrine, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals noted that "although the expectation test has done away with outmoded property concepts no longer satisfactory for Fourth Amendment analysis (cites omitted), a distinction between open fields and curtilage is still helpful in determining the existance or not of a reasonable privacy expectation." United States v. Williams, 581 F.2d 451, 453 (5th Cir. 1978). The court went on to note that it still would hold that the open fields surrounding the house would not be protected under the Fourth Amendment.

In examining the situation in the instant case in light of a

determination as to whether certiorari should be granted, this Court should examine the facts of the case and the applicability of the open fields doctrine to those facts. In the instant case the trial court, as the finder of fact, found the facts such that the search and seizure of the marijuana should be upheld. As noted by the Court of Appeals of Georgia, the officers found two patches of marijuana, one close to the trailer occupied by the co-defendant and another patch approximatly 1700 feet from the trailer in which the Petitioner was living. As the Court of Appeals of Georgia stated regarding Petitioner's argument that the field adjacent to the Kenskill trailer was

within the curtilage of a dwelling," he could not have any expectation of privacy in a dwelling in which he does not reside and it is well established that the Fourth Amendment protects people, not places against unreasonable searches and seizures." LoGiudice v. State, 164 Ga. App. at 710. Therefore, the court concluded that the search and subsequent finding of the marijuana fields on the property was authorized under the open fields doctrine.

In examining Petitioner's allegation that he had a reasonable expectation of privacy in the areas in which the marijuana was found, it is important to note that while the Petitioner did own the land and

trailer on which the small field of marijuana was found, the Petitioner did not reside in that trailer and was actually at a distance of some 1700 feet away from the other larger fields of marijuana. Thus, both fields found by the arresting officers could not, under any reasonable definition, be found to have been within the curtilage of the Petitioner's residence. Therefore, it cannot be stated that the Petitioner could have a reasonable expectation of privacy for both such fields as neither was located near or adjacent to his residence.

The Court of Appeals also found the following facts: "The Sheriff testified that only after a

surveillance of the property did he learn that the property was posted and that the gates on the road leading to the property were locked." Katz, supra. Thus, the facts of this case clearly indicate that the officers received no notice which would give them any idea that the Petitioner had closed this particular portion of the property to the public. Thus, it cannot be said that Petitioner fully exhibited a subjective expectation of privacy.

Based on an examination of all the evidence, Respondent asserts that the Court of Appeals of Georgia correcty concluded that Petitioner had no reasonable expectation of privacy in the marijuana fields located near the

co-defendant's trailer. Even if the decision of this Court in Katz v. United States, supra, has narrowed the open fields doctrine, the Court of Appeals of Georgia properly applied the standards of Katz, in conjunction with the holding of Hester.

The cases cited by the Petitioner which this Court previously stated that it will hear, are sufficiently distinguishable from the facts of the instant case for this Court to conclude that a granting of certiorari is not warranted in the present case. As each case must turn on its unique facts, it is necessary to examine the underlying factual circumstances behind each case involved.

This Court has granted certiorari in Florida v. Brady, ___ U.S. ___, 102 S.Ct. 2266 (1982). The factual circumstances in that case involve a forced entry by deputies onto 1800 acres of land which were clearly fenced, locked, occupied and posted. The Florida courts noted that the deputies had to cross a dike, ram through a gate, and cut a chain lock as well as cross several posted fences in order to reach the area in question. See State v. Brady, 379 So.2d 1294 (Fla. App. 1980). The Florida District Court of Appeals excluded the evidence based on the total encirclement of the property and the "no trespassing" signs that were present. The court concluded that

there was clearly an expectation that no one would enter the property.

The Florida Supreme Court also concluded that the search was improper based on the facts of that particular case. The court concluded that there was a clearly demonstrated expectation of privacy and found that under the facts of that case it was reasonable. State v. Brady, 406 So.2d 1093 (Fla. 1981). Therefore, that case presents a circumstance factually distinguishable from the instant case, as Brady exhibited, through the numerous fences, gates and signs, a far greater subjective expectation of privacy than the Petitioner in this case.

This Court has also granted certiorari in Maine v. Thornton, ___ U.S. ___, 103 S.Ct. 1520 (1983). That case involved a situation in which officers walked across a defendant's property between a mobile home and adjacent house. The officers followed a woods road which was being used as a footpath. The marijuana was found growing in a clearing surrounded by chicken wire. It was noted that the area was heavily wooded. The court noted that there had been an old stone wall surrounding the area, as well as an old barbed wire fence and "no trespassing" signs around the perimeter of the property, including the area where the woods road entered the defendant's property. The court

based its decision on the fact that this was a secluded location and there were many efforts made to exclude the public. The court found that these facts evidenced a reasonable expectation of privacy. The court specifically based its decision on factual findings and the fact that the officers went part way up the defendant's driveway. State v. Thornton, 453 A.2d 485 (Me. 1982). The court granted the motion to suppress in this case, on facts similar to the facts of the instant case. The government applied for and has been granted a writ of certiorari by this Court. Thus, in Thornton, supra, the government is seeking to appeal a granting of the motion to

suppress whereas in this case, the Petitioner is seeking a writ of certiorari to review a denial of the motion on similar facts.

The third case cited by the Petitioner is Oliver v. United States, ___ U.S. ___, 103 S.Ct. 812 (1983). In that case, detectives drove past the defendant's residence for approximately three quarters of a mile to a barn. At that point the detectives were mistaken for hunters and were specifically advised to leave the premises. The officers ignored the warning and continued across the property. There was a private road blocked by a locked gate with a "no trespassing" sign posted on the gate. This was the fourth such sign that had

been seen by the officers while crossing the farm. Two officers then slipped through a hole in the gate and continued on foot for another quarter of a mile across the farm. United States v. Oliver, 657 F.2d 85 (6th Cir. 1981). In that case, the panel of the Sixth Circuit initially concluded that the expectation of privacy was objectively reasonable based on the facts of that case. Subsequently, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals considered the case en banc. That court examined the facts of the case in light of Katz v. United States, supra. The court found that general principles of the Fourth Amendment did not protect an open field of marijuana. The court

concluded that it would protect a person in an open field house built there, but not the field itself. Therefore, the en banc decision concluded that there was no Fourth Amendment violation. United States v. Oliver, 686 F.2d 356 (6th Cir. 1982) (en banc). That case rests solely on the facts of the case and the en banc court's apparent conclusion that no facts could serve to find a reasonable expectation of privacy in an open field. No such conclusion was reached by the Court of Appeals of Georgia in the instant case. The Georgia court specifically concluded there could be no reasonable expectation of privacy in this case. Therefore, Respondent submits that the case of United States

v. Oliver is not similar to the present case and does not justify the granting of the petition for a writ of certiorari.

The fourth case cited by Petitioner is United States v. Dunn, 674 F.2d 1093 (5th Cir. 1982) App. No. 82-508, cert pending, 52 U.S.L.W. 3067. In that case, drug enforcement agents and other law enforcement officials had conducted an ongoing investigation into the possible making of illegal drugs by certain individuals in Texas. As part of their investigation, the agents entered a ranch and conducted an investigation of a barn located on the property adjacent to the defendant's house. The Fifth Circuit Court of

Appeals found that the fence around the ranch was complete and intact and that the barn that was investigated was itself circled by another substantial fence. The court thus found that the barn was within the curtilage of the residence and was within the protective ambit of the Fourth Amendment, and therefore the owner had a reasonable expectation of privacy in the barn. That case is factually distinguishable from the instant case. The area searched in the Dunn supra, was within the confines of a barn and not an open field. That fact alone clearly distinguishes it from the instant case. Secondly, the barn was located immediately adjacent to the dwelling

house of the defendant, both of which were enclosed by wire fences. Therefore, that case presents a circumstance factually distinguishable from the instant case.

Respondent submits that the open fields doctrine set forth by this Court in Hester v. United States, is still viable even in light of Katz v. United States. Even if this Court were to determine that the open fields doctrine should be narrowed in its scope, no reason exists to grant certiorari in the instant case as the Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia did apply a narrowed approach to the question by utilizing the reasonable expectation of privacy test set forth in Katz v. United States.

As the Court of Appeals correctly applied the decisions of this Court, no federal constitutional issue exists which would justify the granting of a writ of certiorari.

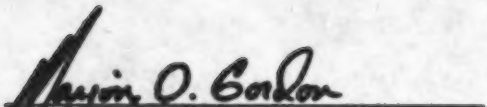
CONCLUSION

For all the above and foregoing reasons, Respondent respectfully requests that this Court deny the petition for a writ of certiorari filed on behalf of the Petitioner, Thomas LoGuidice.

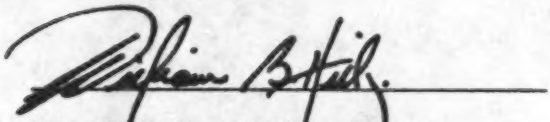
Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. BOWERS
Attorney General

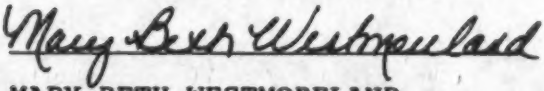
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Mary Beth Westmoreland, attorney of record for the Respondent and a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States hereby certify that in accordance with the rules of the Supreme Court of the United States I have this day served a true and correct copy of this Brief In Opposition for the Respondent upon the Petitioner's attorney by depositing three copies of said brief in the United States mail with proper address and adequate postage to:

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This 21st day of March, 1984.

/s/
MARY BETH WESTMORELAND